

Farmers' Bulletin

Worcester County Farm Service Agency

Office Hours:

Monday – Friday, 8:00am – 4:30pm

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June 6, 2006

ACREAGE REPORTS MUST BE FILED BY JULY 14, 2006

Farmers are strongly encouraged to file an acreage report every year. The deadline for hay, corn, fruits, vegetables and other crops is July 14th. Acreage reports are a useful method of tracking your cropping history in the event you want to participate in future USDA programs. However, they are also required for program eligibility and compliance purposes. Acreage reports are *mandatory* for farmers who:

- **Have signed up for payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program**
- **Apply for Loan Deficiency Program payments for silage or grain corn**
- **Grow an uninsurable crop and apply for the NAP (Non-insurable Assistance Program) Disaster Program**

Call Mary to set up a time for faster service!!! 508-829-4477, ext. 104

Acreage reports filed after July 14th will be assessed a late fee. For a nominal fee, the office can measure your fields to guarantee the acreage you report is accurate.

In addition to acreage reports, producers who have participated in the Non-Insured Disaster Assistance (NAP) Program must also report their production in order to maintain your Actual Production History

NOMINATIONS FOR COUNTY COMMITTEE NORTHEASTERN AGRICULTURAL ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM – MASS. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

Any producer interested in serving on the Worcester County FSA Committee should call our office for a nomination form. Grants of up to \$24,000 can be used for manure storage facilities, roofs for heavy use area, drop irrigation systems, corn burning stoves for greenhouses, fencing, pesticide storage cabinets, cattle waterers, flumes and solar panels for irrigation pump operation. Producers from the following towns can participate: Berlin, Bolton, Boylston, Clinton, Fitchburg, Harvard, Holden, Lancaster, Leominster, Lunenburg, Northboro, Shrewsbury, Southboro, Sterling, West Boylston, Westboro, Worcester. This year, in addition to the usual focus areas for water quality, water conservation and air quality projects, there will be a section which promotes energy conservation on farms.

Look for applications to come out in July 2006. Call Gerard Kennedy for more info at 617-626-1773 or check the website at www.mass.gov/agr/programs/aeep for program availability. To hold office as an FSA County Committee member, a person must meet the basic eligibility requirements. People uncertain about their eligibility to vote in the FSA County Committee election or hold office as a committee member should contact our office. Affirmation of eligibility to vote must be determined in order for

FARM VIABILITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM – MASS. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES *deadline June 30, 2006!!!*

payments and eligibility, conservation programs, disaster assistance and other agricultural issues. Established in 1936, the County Committee system works to make federal agricultural programs serve the needs of local producers. Every committee has three to five elected members. More than 8,000 County Committee members made for not developing your land for a 5 or 10 year time period. Consultants will work with you on a plan to increase profitability for your farming operation. There have been several farmers in Worcester County who have done a wide variety of projects with this program. Ice cream stands, new barns, new farm businesses, farm improvements and expansions are only a few things that have been done in the past. Applications will be available online at the Agricultural Resources web site at www.mass.gov/agr or you can request a copy by calling 617-626-1723. The deadline to submit applications is 4PM on Thursday, June 30, 2006.

Farmers' Bulletin serves the agricultural and silvicultural producers of Worcester County, Massachusetts. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative